

2013 Upland Bird Population Trends - Salmon Region

2013 Conditions - Early spring conditions were warmer and drier than average. Nesting success and chick survival appears to have been good. As a result, most game bird populations should be average, with chukar populations potentially above average.

Upland Bird	Trend from last year (2012)	10-Year Trend (2002-2013)	Comments
Pheasant	Stable	Stable	There is very little pheasant habitat in Salmon Region and numbers are very low. Pheasants are occasionally harvested in the lower Lemhi and Pahsimeroi valleys.
Chukar	Up	Stable	Because of typical weather patterns, most of Salmon Region represents marginal chukar habitat. The weather in June was relatively warm and dry and nesting success and chick survival appears to have been good. Hunters should expect above average chukar hunting this year.
Gray Partridge	Stable	Up	Gray partridge are uncommon in Salmon Region, but appeared to have increased and expanded range over the last few years. A few gray partridge are harvested incidentally by chukar hunters.
Forest Grouse (Dusky, Ruffed and Spruce)	Stable	Stable	Dusky grouse are the most common forest grouse species in Salmon Region and they are well distributed through most of the drier forested habitats. Dusky grouse production this year appears average. Ruffed and spruce grouse habitat is limited to riparian (streamside) habitats and moist forest types, which are uncommon in Salmon Region.